

PROFILE

OF A FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT

Leslie A. Gordon



Tracy Salisbury, president of the BASF Foundation, The Bar Association of San Francisco's charitable arm, describes herself as a serious home cook ("I have several hundred cookbooks; I read them like novels") and a baseball fan, even serving for a time as president of her local little league association. Salisbury is also passionate about

food-related charities. "We have hungry people living in our midst—many are children and elderly. That," she says, "drives me crazy."

On behalf of the BASF Foundation, Salisbury is in the midst of raising money to qualify for matching funds pursuant to a \$20,000 grant to expand BASF's School-To-College program to another high school. She's already raised \$16,000—from her own firm alone. Salisbury cochairs the litigation department at Shartsis Friese, where she handles complex business disputes.

A South Carolina native, Salisbury lives in the East Bay with her husband, who works in the California attorney general's office, and their two sons. We asked Salisbury a few offbeat questions to learn more about her.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE AND WHY?

In Moraga because it has a great small-town atmosphere and great schools. I joke that it's like Mayberry but with better cars.

WHAT'S A SECRET TALENT YOU HAVE?

I'm a reasonably accomplished home cook and baker. And I am good at *The New York Times* crossword puzzle. I also know more about baseball than the average woman and a lot of men.

WHAT WAS THE MOST FULFILLING MOMENT IN YOUR CAREER?

It was not a huge, ah-ha enormous case, but a pro bono case many years ago in which I was able to keep a woman and her child in their home. That was very memorable.

WHAT WERE YOU LIKE AS A TEENAGER?

It was in the '70's. I was kind of a hippie. At school, I was a nerdy braniac. I was not very popular except with other nerdy braniacs. I was quite politically active.

WHAT IS ALWAYS WITH YOU?

A handbag that's much too large and unwieldy for any sane person to carry around. In it, I always have something to read and a crossword.

WHAT'S YOUR GUILTY PLEASURE?

Junk food, virtually every kind. Potato chips. Cheetos—oh, my, I love Cheetos. Bacon. Anything salty and greasy.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?

Middle-aged person's music: Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young, Van Morrison—and whatever's on KFOG.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LAWYER?

It's something that's not always found, at least to the right degree: the ability to see all sides of a case very clearly while still advocating for your client. Lawyers don't always drink their own Kool-Aid.

WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST?

My parents, mostly for the good. And two or three friends who were influential in helping me see the world through other perspectives and treat people a little better. But absolutely the most profound influence on me has been my two children.

WHAT'S YOUR IDEAL SUNDAY?

Spending the morning walking, reading the newspaper, and drinking tea. In the afternoon, cooking, baking, and having friends over—and there's usually some wine involved.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOURSELF?

I empathize pretty well and I have an ability to get along with just about anybody.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FILM AND WHY?

Bull Durham because it's about baseball, one of my all-time favorite things. It's also very funny, and I value a sense of humor right up there with empathy and selflessness.

IF YOU COULDN'T BE A LAWYER, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Run a food charity.

EVERY ATTORNEY SHOULD...

...write a check to The Bar Association of San Francisco Foundation.